

Urban District of Hebden Royd

Annual
REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1944

HEBDEN BRIDGE :

KERSHAW & ASHWORTH LTD., MARKET STREET

Urban District of Hebden Royd

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URBAN DISTRICT OF HEBDEN ROYD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Holme House, Hebden Bridge.
August, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Royd
Urban District Council

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Urban District of Hebden Royd for the year ending 1944.

In accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circular 10/44, dated 15th February, 1944, and Circular 49/45, of 19th March, 1945, the report has been curtailed, and is an interim report.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:—

| Live Births | { | Total | M | F | { | Birth-rate per 1000 estimated Resident Civilian Population, 19.22 |
|-------------|---|---------------------|----|----|---|--|
| | | Legitimate ... 166 | 85 | 81 | | |
| Births | { | Illegitimate ... 11 | 6 | 5 | { | |
| | | | | | | |

| Still Births | { | Illegitimate ... 5 | 2 | 3 | { | Rate per 1000 (live and still) Total Births, 32.78 |
|--------------|---|--------------------|---|---|---|--|
| | | Illegitimate ... 1 | 0 | 1 | | |

Civilian Population 1944: 9,206.

| Deaths | Total | M | F | Death-rate per 1000 Civilian Population, 14.77 |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------|----|--|
| | | | | |
| | 136 | 62 | 74 | |
| Birth Rate (Eng. & Wales) | 17.6 | per 1000 Civilian population | | |
| Still Birth Rate | „ | 0.50 | „ | |
| Death Rate | „ | 11.6 | „ | |

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

| | Births | Total (Live & still) Births Rate per 1000 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Legitimate | Total 2 | Males 2 | Females 0 |
| Illegitimate | Total 1 | Males 0 | Females 1 |

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births:—

Legitimate 12 Illegitimate 90 All Infants 11.29.

Death Rate Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births:—

England and Wales 46

| | |
|--|----|
| Deaths from Diphtheria | 0 |
| „ Measles (all ages) | 0 |
| „ Whooping Cough (all ages) | 0 |
| „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | 0 |
| „ Cancer (all ages) | 19 |
| „ Heart Disease (all ages) | 37 |
| „ Influenza | 1 |
| „ Suicide | 2 |
| Road Traffic Accidents | 3 |
| „ Pneumonia (all types) | 1 |

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer, who also acts as Public Vaccinator and District M.O. under the Poor Law Act.

The Sanitary Officer is a full-time Officer; and other Public Health Officers, such as Veterinary Surgeons, Public Analysts, etc., come under the control of the West Riding County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

This is principally carried out by three District Nurses, two attached to the Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution, and one to the Mytholmroyd and District Nursing Institution. These Nurses are qualified both in General and Maternity Nursing. They attend confinements at a small fixed fee. Their work is highly appreciated, and their services are always much in demand.

These District Nursing Institutions are managed very successfully by local Committees and are supported principally by voluntary contributions. The Institutions receive a subsidy from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of running the Maternity Service. They have no connection with the Local Authority. Midwives: The three District Nurses referred to are the only practising midwives in the area.

There was no change in these arrangements during the year.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Autogenous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same.

Diphtheria anti-toxin and immunising serum are supplied to any Medical Practitioner requiring them for use in their practice. Immunisations against diphtheria are carried out at local School Centres or by doctors engaged in private practice, free of charge. The cost of such treatment is met by the County Council Public Health Authorities.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fever Hospital. Non-infectious and Accident cases are removed by an Ambulance jointly owned by Hebden Royd Urban Council and Hepton Rural Council.

Subscribers to the Hebden Bridge Nursing Institution are entitled to free use of the Ambulance—there is a nominal charge made for non-subscribers. The present Gift Ambulance is, in my opinion, no longer suitable for the work in this area.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are established at both Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. An Afternoon Clinic is held at both centres each Wednesday for mothers and babies, under the supervision of a doctor and nurses. Owing to war conditions the Clinic at Mytholmroyd has a doctor in attendance only every fortnight. An additional Clinic is held in Hebden Bridge on Thursdays at 2-0 p.m. for evacuees and school children. These Clinics are well

attended, showing a considerably increased attendance in recent years. Morning School Clinics are held twice weekly at Hebden Bridge Centre, under the supervision of the Health Nurse. Ante-Natal Clinics are held at Hebden Bridge, under the supervision of a Lady Doctor. They are held on the first, second and third Friday of each month at 1-30 p.m., and are very well attended. At Mytholmroyd the Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the first Monday of each month at 2 p.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held weekly at both Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge.

The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at the Royal Halifax Infirmary. Other free treatment Clinics are at Burnley and Keighley.

The Clinics referred to are under the control of the West Riding County Council.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council whereby pre-school and school children can be immunised free of charge either at suitable centres or at the schools or by their own medical attendant.

The "Welcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic A.P.T. is used for inoculation, and two injections are given at monthly intervals. The results so far as I can ascertain have been excellent.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year 1944 this district was free from any serious epidemics of disease, but there was a marked prevalence of minor sickness with prolonged convalescence, showing a general lowering of recuperative powers. 36 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year; 25 of these cases occurring in September, October and November, when this disease tended to become epidemic. During that period the disease was confined mainly to the Hebden Bridge area, only 4 cases being notified in the Mytholmroyd Ward. Seven cases occurred in the first quarter of the year, 4 of these cases being from the Mytholmroyd area. There was a minor epidemic of measles during the last quarter of the year in the Hebden Bridge Ward, when 45 cases were notified. Whooping cough was prevalent throughout the district during the year, 16 cases being notified. I am still of the

opinion regarding the fevers, measles and whooping cough that the number of cases notified does not at all cover the cases occurring. Many parents do not realise it is their legal duty to call in the family doctor in any suspected cases, now that these diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your area, and this failure on their part makes it impossible to check or control epidemics or make any accurate survey of these diseases.

No case of diphtheria was notified during the year. The campaign against this disease was carried on successfully throughout this year, and on December 31st, 1944, 97 per cent. of the under 5 group, and 95 per cent in the 5—15 group of the child population in your area had completed a full course of prophylactic treatment which is a very satisfactory figure. This campaign is kept alive in the area through calls on the parents by the Welfare Visitors, who remind them of the vital necessity and importance of this treatment. Each child also receives a birthday card on its first birthday stressing the importance of such treatment. These cards are sent at the expense of the Local Authority. I am definitely of the opinion that the fact of not having received a single notification of diphtheria is entirely due to the success of the immunisation campaign.

Scabies still proved troublesome during the year recurring in some cases. 27 cases notified to the Public Health Department were treated free of charge at the General Hospital, Halifax, Treatment Centre, Out Patients' Department.

Propaganda against V.D. was carried on by the distribution of leaflets and posters. In this connection also a lecture and film show were given at the Picture House, Hebden Bridge, early in December under the auspices of The Central Council for Health Education.

There were no cases of Anthrax, Psittacosis, or Undulant Fever.

I do not know of any use of the Shick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever having been made. In my opinion every child immunised against Diphtheria should be Shick tested. No local action was taken in regard to the use of Measles Serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

EVACUATION

In connection with evacuation and in co-operation with the adjoining authorities of Hepton Rural, Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden, the following institutions have been established:—

Burnside, Wadsworth—Sick Bay, Minor Ailments (Hepton Rural District Council).

Heath House, Hebden Bridge—Difficult Children (Hebden Royd Urban District Council).

Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge—Skin Diseases, Scabies and Impetigo (Sowerby Bridge U.D. Council).

At the commencement of the year, i.e., 1st January, 1944, there were 278 evacuees billeted or otherwise officially accommodated in the Urban District. During the year there was a big influx of evacuees due to flying bomb attacks, and, in addition to the four official parties, many evacuees arrived without any preliminary notice and had to be dealt with by the local billeting organisation which was put to a very severe strain in finding accommodation for the many evacuees who arrived in the district without warning. During the year 889 evacuees came into the district and were dealt with by the local organisation, but, in addition, there were many private evacuees who were not registered at the billeting office. 712 evacuees left the district during the year, leaving a total of 455 billeted or otherwise officially accommodated at 31st December, 1944.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1944

| DISEASE | Total Cases notified | Cases admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Smallpox | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | 36 | 35 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Ophthalmia N enatorum | 1 | 0 | 0 |

[illegible]

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 176.—No action taken.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----|----------------|-----|------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | .. | ... |
| 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... |
| 5 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10 | .. | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. |
| 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| 20 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | .. |
| 25 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| 35 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 45 | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 55 | 1 | ... | ... | .. | .. | ... | ... | ... |
| 65 and upwards | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | 1 |
| Totals ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

There were 2 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year 1944, and one of these cases was not previously notified to me.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was deemed necessary to be taken under these Regulations.

Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1944.

NAME OF DISTRICT--HEBDEN ROYD URBAN

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.

Cases removed to Hospital.

| | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 0 | Smallpox | |
| 36 | Scarlet Fever | |
| 0 | Diphtheria, including Mem. Group | |
| 1 | Typhoid | Enteric Fever |
| 0 | Paratyphoid | |
| 2 | Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal) | |
| 0 | Puerperal Pyrexia | |
| 0 | Cerebro-Spinal Fever | |
| 0 | Acute Poliomyelitis | |
| 0 | Acute Polio-Encephalitis | |
| 0 | Acute Encephalitis Lethargica | |
| 0 | Dysentery | |
| 1 | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | |
| 1 | Erysipelas | |
| 2 | Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases only) | |
| 4 | Other forms of Tuberculosis (new cases only) | |
| 0 | Contracted in this Country | Malaria |
| 0 | Contracted Abroad | |
| 0 | Induced in Institutions† | |
| x | Chickenpox | |
| 60 | Measles (excluding German Measles or Rubella) | |
| 16 | Whooping Cough | |
| 0 | Smallpox | |
| 33 | Scarlet Fever | |
| 0 | Diphtheria | |
| 1 | Enteric Fever | |
| 1 | Pneumonia | |

Chickenpox.—Was this disease compulsorily notifiable in your district during the year 1944?—No.

If so, please state period If it was not compulsorily notifiable, but was known to be prevalent during 1944, please write a "x" in the appropriate column of the above table.

Respiratory and other Forms of Tuberculosis.—Under these heading include only the numbers of primary cases; notifications of institutional admissions and discharges should not be included.

† Notified under the proviso to Article 5 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927.

(Signed) F. J. DOWDALL, Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172

No action found necessary.

This, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, concludes my report on the health of your district for the year 1944.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS JOSEPH DOWDALL,

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O..

Medical Officer of Health

HEBDEN ROYD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year ending December 31st, 1944

To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Royd
Urban District Council

Sir and Members,—

I beg to submit my 8th Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector to the Hebden Royd Urban District, in which you will find a brief review of the work of this Department, and the sanitary conditions in the area for the year 1944.

In accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circular 10/44, dated 15th February, 1944, the report has been curtailed.

I remain, your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FEATHER, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supplies

(a) Council's Water Supply

The water supply administered by the Council has during the year been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity.

(b) Private Water Supplies

Samples of water for bacterial examination have been taken from the Birchcliffe Private Supply, which supplies a large number of houses in the centre of Hebden Bridge, and from the supply to Brearley Lower Mill, Luddenden

Foot, and Bankfoot Mill, Hebden Bridge. The results were very satisfactory.

Several samples of water have been taken for examination for lead contents, and in one case a rather high content was found in the water from the Halifax County Borough supply, where the water was drawn from the main through a long length of lead pipe.

Drainage and Sewerage

There have been no extensions to the drainage scheme or the Sewage Disposal Works during 1944.

Public Cleansing

The work of public cleansing, refuse disposal, and salvage collection, was carried out during the year at a cost of £1,890, which is a great reduction on last year's cost. The income from materials salvaged have played a large part in this reduction.

The question of salvaging has been well to the front during the year, and the following goods have been collected and sold during the year:—

| Tons. | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. | | £ | s. | d. |
|-------|-------|------|------|--------------------|------|----|----|
| 94 | 6 | 1 | 0 | Paper | 604 | 19 | 1 |
| 5 | 5 | 3 | 9 | Rags, etc. | 46 | 4 | 7 |
| — | — | — | — | Loose Tins | — | — | — |
| 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Scrap Iron | 8 | 15 | 5 |
| 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | Other Metals | 0 | 13 | 5 |
| 1 | 0 | 3 | 26 | Bones | 4 | 19 | 6 |
| — | — | — | — | Rubber | — | — | — |
| — | — | — | — | Jars, etc. | — | — | — |
| 103 | 14 | 3 | 17 | Total | £665 | 12 | 0 |

Housing

There has been a very small amount of repair work done to houses under the Housing Acts, owing to the war and the shortage of man power. All the available housing accommodation has been brought into use, with the influx of evacuees into the area.

No new houses have been built during 1944.

FOOD

Inspection and Supervision of Food Milk Supply

528 samples have been collected for the Department of Agriculture under the National Milk Testing Scheme, and there has been some improvement since the commencement which I think is owing to the sampling being done more often.

Improvements have been carried out to several Cow-sheds and dairies where farmers are endeavouring to get their premises up to the standard required by the County Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-42, with a view to applying for a licence as "Accredited" Producers, but there have been no additions to the list owing to the difficulty of getting the alterations carried out during war time.

Meat Inspection

The whole of the slaughtering of animals for this area is now carried out at the abattoir at Halifax.

Other Foods

A large amount of tinned foods has been inspected at storage places and retail shops throughout the area. A quantity has been found to be in an unfit state owing to being blown, and in some cases damaged in transit.

Scabies

Under the arrangements made with the Halifax General Hospital for out-patient treatment of cases of Scabies from this area, the following cases have been treated:—

Year ended December, 1944:—

| Patients who have received | Men | Women | Children under 16 yrs. | No. of Cases Treated. |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Treatment Each | — | 4 | 19 | 23 |
| 2 " " | — | — | 2 | 4 |
| 3 " " | — | 1 | — | 3 |
| 4 " " | — | — | — | — |
| 5 " " | — | — | 1 | 5 |
| | 5 | | 2 | |
| 27 Patients have received | | | | 35 Treatment |

Nuisance Inspections

Total number of Inspections made in 1944 for nuisances only: 188 (not including Housing Inspections).

Nuisances found in 1944: 53 Nuisances in hand, end of 1943: 2.

Total needing abatement: 55. Abated during 1944: 54. Outstanding, end of 1944: 1.

Notices served: Informal: 55. Complied with: 54. Notices served: Statutory: 0.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.:— Offensive Trades (Tripe Works): No. in district: 2; No. on register 2; total No. of inspections made: 2; General conditions: Satisfactory. Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?: No.

Drainage and Sewerage

Particulars of any sewer extensions during 1944: None. Details of any portion of district still requiring—

(a) Sewering: There are a few isolated places which are a long way from the sewer, or at inconvenient levels; (b) Improvement of defective sewers: 1.

Number of houses not connected to sewers: 429.

Sewage Disposal Works

Particulars of any extensions made during 1944: No.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works?: No.

Any complaint from (West Riding Rivers Board): No.

Closet Accommodation

Number of privies with open middens: None.

Number of pail or tub closets: 302.

Number of privies with covered middens: 3.

Number of water closets: 3,417.

Number of waste water closets: 13.

Number of additional closets provided for old property in 1944 as w.c.'s: 6.

Any special action being taken by Council to secure conversion of privies, waste water closets and pails to w.c. system. If so, what?: The Council is still offering a subsidy of £3 per closet converted to a water closet.

Scavenging

Is public scavenging in operation throughout the whole district?: Yes.

How is refuse disposed of?

Tipping: 100 per cent. If tipping is in operation, is it on the controlled system?: Yes. Total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse £2,226.

There has been a large amount of material salvaged from the household refuse, which has been very helpful in bringing down the cost of scavenging.

Particulars of any extension or improvement in the service during the year?: None.

Water Supply

Source of supply: Halifax Corporation and a few private supplies.

By whom distributed?: The Halifax Corporation Supply is distributed by the Hebden Royd U.D.C.

Number of dwellinghouses on public supply: 2,780.

Any extension of supply during the year : No.

Has supply been satisfactory?: Yes. (a) In quality: Yes, with the exception of a slight lead content where supply had a long length of lead pipe. (b) In quantity: Yes.

Number of examinations made during the year: Bacteriological: 4. Result Good in both cases.

Have any supplies been restricted or closed, if so, where? None.

Milk Supply

Number of milk samples taken by officers of your Authority for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: No.

Any special examination of milk for dirt, e.g., sedimentation tests? Yes, samples have been collected under the National Milk Testing Scheme, and some improvement has been made.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk during 1944: No.

Number of cowkeepers in district: 34. Number registered: 34. Number of cowsheds: 62. Total number of milk cows: 442.

Total number of cowsheds inspected during the year: 62.

Total number of cowshed inspections: 139.

Number of wholesale traders registered: 10.

Number of retail milk sellers registered: 50.

Have any retailers been removed from the register? No, only those who have given over retailing.

Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production and handling of milk: There have been several places where there has been a marked improvement in the method of production and handling of milk, which has resulted in improvement of the samples taken.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1942—

Production of "Accredited" milk: No. of licences in force in area for: 8. Number of licences in force for bottling "Tuberculin Tested," or "Accredited" milk, other than at place of production: None.

Meat Inspection

Any public abattoir in district?: No. The slaughtering of animals is now carried out at Halifax Abattoir.

Total number of private slaughterhouses: 3, made up of 0 registered, and 3 licensed.

Number of times each slaughterhouse inspected: Not now in use.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924

Meat Marketing: Is scheme in force under above?: No.

Other Foods

Number of samples (other than milk) taken by officers of Local Authority for examination under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: None.

Number of bakehouses in district: 23. Total inspections: 29.

Are any of bakehouses underground, if so, how many?: No.

Schools

Statutory Medical Inspection is carried out by the County Education Authority in most of the districts, but that does not relieve the M.O.H. of his duties in regard to sanitation and the prevention of infectious outbreaks in connection with Schools.

Number of Schools in district: 7.

General Sanitary Condition: Fairly good.

Smoke Abatement

Number of smoke observations each of 30 minutes duration taken during 1944: 5.

Number of above showing excessive emission of black smoke: 4. These were all from one chimney, and it was referred to the Regional Controller of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, and some alterations were made, which resulted in a further observation being satisfactory.

Number of cautions issued: 1.

Number of statutory notices issued: None.

Number of prosecutions: None.

Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.

Number in district: 2.

Is this class of dwelling showing signs of increase? No.

Have Council made byelaws under Section 268(4), Public Health Act, 1936? No.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Are there in the district any public swimming baths or pools?: No. Any privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public? No.

Any samples of bath waters examined in 1944, apart from samples submitted to the County Bacteriological Laboratory? If so, please give particulars: No.

Byelaws and Regulation in force in District

Building Bye Laws: 24th July, 1939.

Pleasure Ground Bye Laws: 24th July, 1939.

Mortuaries

What accommodation: (a) for accidents: 1 at Mytholmroyd and 1 at Hebden Bridge. (b) for infectious cases other than at hospital: None. (c) for other cases: 1 for A.R.P. Decontaminated case at Hebden Bridge. This has now been dismantled. (d) for post-mortem examinations: one at Mytholmroyd and one at Hebden Bridge.

Sanitary Staff

Name of Sanitary Inspector: Thomas Feather.

Any assistants?: **No.**

Does M.O.H. receive copies of memos. and circulars distributed by Ministry of Health?: Yes.

